

# News

## From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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### Media Advisory

## **KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION TO OFFER SPRINGTIME HIKES**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 1, 2003) – The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is conducting hikes on four separate state nature preserves during the months of April and May.

On Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m. EST, Martina Hines will lead an easy walk on the Lower Howards Creek Heritage Park and State Nature Preserve in Clark County. This preserve features beautiful limestone ledges with striking wildflower displays. The preserve is not yet open to the public so this is a rare opportunity to view the property.

On Saturday, April 19 at 1 p.m. EST, Deborah White will lead a medium to strenuous hike on the River Cliffs State Nature Preserve in Franklin County. This preserve is the one most recently dedicated in the state nature preserve system and is not open to the public. The property has wildflowers and a population of Braun's rockcress, an endangered plant.

On Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. EST, join Nick Drozda for a moderately difficult two-mile hike over uneven terrain at the John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve in Madison County. A beautiful waterfall and rich spring floral display awaits participants on this hike.

On Saturday, May 3, Heather Weese will lead a walk of easy to medium difficulty walk at Natural Bridge State Park Nature Preserve at Slade in Powell County. This hike will be part of the Kentucky Native Plant Society Spring Wildflower Weekend with many species of wildflowers not seen in the Bluegrass region of the state. For information on the Kentucky Native Plant Society or their hike schedule, visit the Web site [www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org).

For more information on these hikes and to register, contact Deborah White at (502) 573-2886, by e-mail to [deborah.white@state.mail.state.ky.us](mailto:deborah.white@state.mail.state.ky.us) or visit the Internet at [www.kynaturepreserves.org](http://www.kynaturepreserves.org).

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The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring, and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system with 17,835 acres statewide.

The commission publishes technical reports and a quarterly newsletter and can be reached by mail at KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort KY 40601-1403, by telephone at (502) 573-2886 and by e-mail at [nrepc.ksnpcemail@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:nrepc.ksnpcemail@mail.state.ky.us).